

Mr. Walters with his long overdue Purple Heart. He should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

CONGRATULATING STAFF SERGEANT MICHAEL BROUSSARD AND STAFF SERGEANT SHAYNE CHERRY

HON. LYNN A. WESTMORELAND

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. WESTMORELAND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate SSG Michael Broussard and SSG Shayne Cherry, winners of the 2008 Best Ranger Competition, a rigorous contest at Fort Benning, GA, between elite two-man teams.

Broussard and Cherry won a home-court victory, as they hail from Benning's 75th Ranger Regiment.

The Best Ranger Competition started out as a contest between the best two-man teams at Fort Benning in the early 1980s but quickly expanded Army-wide. It easily rates as one of the toughest, most physically demanding competitions in the world. Contestants endure extreme demands of their physical, mental and technical abilities as Rangers, and they must deliver at levels that far exceed the expectations of average soldiers.

Today, the competition pits the best of the best against each other. It's an honor to simply win a spot in the contest, making Broussard and Cherry's accomplishment all the more extraordinary. The event lasts 3 days and teams face elimination unless they complete all events, which include marksmanship, climbing a 60-foot rope and long, wet hikes. It's easy to see why of the 28 teams that entered only 16 finished all courses.

The pair took an early lead on the first day and never trailed again. Army Chief of Staff George Casey was on hand at Fort Benning to congratulate the winners.

Casey had high praise for all involved: "The men that have been through this competition . . . are a fitting example of what this Army stands for—about discipline, about mental and physical agility, about strength and about the warrior ethos."

Both SSG Broussard and SSG Cherry have been awarded many medals, including the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Valorous Unit Award and many others.

Broussard, from Brentwood, CA, joined the service after high school in 2001. He has served two tours in Afghanistan and two tours in Iraq. He is working on his master's degree and plans to become a physician assistant after his military career. Broussard had competed in the Best Ranger Competition twice before.

Cherry, from Monroe, NE, has served since 2001 and has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan seven times. He and his wife Amanda have two children.

"We said to each other . . . we're doing this to win. Period," Broussard told the Army Times. "Everything just sort of clicked for us."

Sergeant Broussard and Sergeant Cherry have dedicated their lives to the service of this Nation and have dedicated years of their lives to fighting on the front lines of the war on ter-

rorism in Afghanistan and Iraq. With a combination of hard work, dedication and talent, they have proven on the field of battle and on the field of competition that they rank amongst the best soldiers in the U.S. Army—the greatest fighting force in the history of the world.

Madam Speaker, I call on the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and the people of Georgia's 3rd Congressional District in honoring the service and applauding the stellar achievements of Sergeant Michael Broussard and Sergeant Shayne Cherry. They are a tribute to Fort Benning, the U.S. Army Rangers, and the United States.

RECOGNIZING THE CITY OF LAGUNA NIGUEL

HON. JOHN CAMPBELL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. CAMPBELL of California. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the city of Laguna Niguel, located within the 48th Congressional District of California, for recently formalizing its Sister Cities Agreement with Al Qa'im, Iraq. This is the tenth Sister City relationship to be established between United States and Iraqi jurisdictions, and I see this as a clear sign to the people of Iraq that citizen volunteers within communities like Laguna Niguel stand beside them in their time of building a free and prosperous society.

The Sister City Program, administered by Sister Cities International, was initiated by President Dwight D. Eisenhower back in 1956 to encourage greater friendship and cultural understanding between the United States and other nations through direct personal contact. The partnership between Laguna Niguel and Al Qa'im will be for the purpose of exploring and implementing mutually beneficial programs in the areas of government and business information exchange, health, education, cultural arts, and sports.

As a preliminary first gesture, the city of Laguna Niguel's Military Support Committee sent hundreds of soccer balls, uniforms and pumps to Al Qa'im to help the Marines deployed there build relations with the local citizens. According to their commanding officer, the city played an extremely important role in assisting the Marines in accomplishing their mission.

This is just an early indicator of many great things to come as the activities of their mutual cooperation agreement unfold. Mayor Farhan Tekan Farhan of Al Qa'im was recently quoted in Marine Corps News, saying that "this is a great occasion for Al Qa'im, and God willing, this relationship will prove to be a promising one."

I especially want to thank the 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, led by LTC Jason Bohm, for initiating the program with Laguna Niguel and Al Qa'im, and the recently deployed Task Force 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 5, led by LTC Peter B. Baumgarten, for facilitating the official signing for the Sister City Program. I look forward to hearing and telling more about many other good things to come from this innovative program over the months and years ahead.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman JON C. PORTER.

Bill Number: HR 5658, The Duncan Hunter National Defense Authorization Act.

Account: Procurement of Aircraft, Air Force (APAF).

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Alliant Techsystems, LLC (Nevada Air National Guard).

Address of Requesting Entity: ATK Integrated Systems, 236 Citation Drive, Ft. Worth, TX 76106.

Description of Request: I received an earmark of \$5,000,000 to upgrade the Podded Reconnaissance System, also known as Scathe View, on the C-130H to provide ground and air forces critical real-time intelligence for domestic disaster relief operations and war fighter requirements. The Scathe View System has served as an important component of the Nevada Air National Guard in support of Homeland Defense and natural disaster missions. Specifically, \$1.7 million will provide for 2 additional Reconnaissance Pallets and \$3.3 million for the addition of a Tactical Information data link to provide near real-time multi-sensor, multi-source situational awareness and threat warning information broadcast to the war fighter in a common, readily understood format, all in sufficient time to permit action. Funding of Scathe View integration is critical to provide ACC with a tactical EO/IR surveillance and targeting capability can capitalize on years of investment in Group A modifications to the aircraft, mission systems and training. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Air Force's Aircraft Modifications: C-130H account. This is the last year funding will be needed to complete the program, as the 2 additional pallet upgrades would complete the Katrina modifications for 2 additional aircraft, for a total of 6 of 8 aircraft and add the Tactical Information data link to all 8 aircraft.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MACKINAC ISLAND STATE PARK COMMISSION'S HISTORICAL PRESERVATION AND MUSEUM PROGRAM

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 19, 2008

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to support H. Con. Res. 325, Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program, which began on June 15, 1958.

In 1958, the State of Michigan granted authority to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission to restore and interpret Fort Mackinac and other historical properties at the Straits of Mackinac.

The Mackinac State Historic Parks complex is one of the most successful historic site complexes in North America. The Mackinac Island State Park Commission helps bring tourism to the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and aids the local economy. This resolution commemorates the restoration and opening of Fort Mackinac to the public in 1958.

As a native Michigander, I have always enjoyed the beautiful and abundant natural resource that is Mackinac Island. All of my visits to Mackinac Island have been rewarding and fulfilling.

I join my fellow colleagues, in honoring the accomplishments and creation of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission's Historical Preservation and Museum Program, and to commemorate the 50th anniversary by supporting this resolution.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BOB INGLIS

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman BOB INGLIS.

Bill Number: H.R. 5658 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2009.

Account: Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force—Materials.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Cytec Carbon Fibers LLC.

Address of Requesting Entity: 7139 Augusta Road, Piedmont, South Carolina 29673.

Description of Request: The purpose of the request is to provide an earmark of \$3,000,000 to conduct research and development aimed at producing a domestic source of cost effective, high performance carbon fiber used to manufacture efficient manned and unmanned air and space vehicles for the military. Approximately, \$250,000 (8%) is to continue R&D for scale process optimization to ensure equivalent or superior product performance through modified polymer chemistry; \$200,000 (7%) is to continue R&D for scale process optimization to ensure equivalent or superior product performance through carbon fiber surface science for improved property translation in composites; \$250,000 (8%) to produce (pilot scale) and test 12k versions of phase I defined advanced PAN-based carbon fibers; \$200,000 (7%) to establish testing protocols with Greenville and York Technical Colleges; \$350,000 (12%) to generate meaningful preliminary composite data for use by target program managers; \$150,000 (5%) to establish training parameters for manufacturing and use of high performance carbon fibers; \$300,000 (10%) to begin scale-up of production/commercial capability; \$350,000 (12%) to produce multiple production-scale carbon fiber lots of selected 12k versions of advanced fibers; \$600,000 (20%) to initiate qualification/design allowable database test programs based on key military applications, and \$350,000 (12%) for Air Force Research Laboratory project management.

In an effort to reduce the Department of Defense's fossil fuel dependence, the DoD has recently given significant attention to lightweighting manned and unmanned ground

and air vehicles through advanced materials, such as composite structures, which are currently only available from foreign suppliers. The military has demonstrated a need for access to a lower cost domestic source of new advanced carbon fibers and testing protocols. Cytec Carbon Fibers will provide a domestic solution and utilize its carbon fiber expertise to develop and manufacture high performance carbon fibers in its Greenville, South Carolina plant to be used for military applications including J-UCAS, UCAR, Global Hawk, Predator, F-18 E/F, JSF and V-22 as well as missile and satellite components. The ultimate goal would be for Cytec to work with local technical colleges, such as Greenville and York Technical Colleges to establish a knowledge base on the manufacturing, testing, repair and efficient use of advanced composite materials. This request is consistent with the intended and authorized purpose of the Research, Development, Test & Evaluation, Air Force—Materials Account. Since 2006, Cytec Carbon Fibers has invested \$7 million to upgrade its R&D facilities and pilot plan capabilities.

HONORING STEVE L. BUTTS OF HERNANDO, FLORIDA

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Steve L. Butts, a veteran from Hernando, Florida who has recently been recognized with the Saint Martin Award, a tribute given under the authority of the U.S. Army Quartermaster General.

At the age of 17, Mr. Butts enlisted in the Army, and was sent to Quartermaster School in Ft. Lee, Virginia, eventually rising to the rank of sergeant. Assigned to the 1st LOG Command in Vietnam during 1969, Sgt Butts then served with the 2nd LOG Command in Okinawa in 1970. Prior to his retirement in 1989, Butts was appointed to warrant officer and was commissioned at West Point Academy. In addition to his service in Panama, Germany, Italy, France, England, Ireland, Turkey, Afghanistan, Korea, Japan, Spain, Netherlands and Greenland, Mr. Butts was sent to Lockerbie, Scotland as part of the team investigating the wreckage of Pan Am Flight 103, for which he was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal 5th OLC.

For his two decades of service to the Army Quartermasters, Mr. Butts was recently honored with the Saint Martin Award for distinguished service to the military. Martin was a Roman soldier who served during the time of Emperor Constantine and who during a campaign in Gaul kindly gave half of his warm cloak to a beggar who had been ignored by the rest of his troops. That evening Martin was visited by the Lord, who praised him for his kindness toward the poor beggar. Today, Saint Martin serves as the patron saint of the Quartermaster Regiment and lends his name to the award recently bestowed upon Steve Butts for his lifetime of service to the Army Quartermasters. The award recognized not just his years of military service, but also his continued commitment to the men and women

who serve today in the Army Quartermaster units throughout the world.

Madam Speaker, it is veterans like Steve Butts who have served our Nation with honor and distinction and who deserve our praise and recognition. Completing his service and retiring from the Army, Mr. Butts continued to work with the Quartermaster regiments around the world, serving as an example for all men and women seeking to serve our great Nation. I congratulate Steve on his well deserved recognition and hope that he continues his service to the Quartermasters for many years to come.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, I was unavoidably detained and thus I missed rollcall votes No. 331 through No. 337. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner:

On rollcall vote No. 331 on H.R. 6081, The Heroes Earnings Assistance and Relief Tax Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 332, on H.R. 6074, Gas Price Relief for Consumers Act, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 333, on H. Res. 1144. Expressing support for designation of a "Frank Sinatra Day" on May 13, 2008, in honor of the dedication of the Frank Sinatra commemorative, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 334, on Adjournment Resolution, Providing for the Memorial Day Recess, I would have voted "nay."

On rollcall vote No. 335, on H.R. 1464, to assist in the conservation of rare felids and rare canids, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 336, on H.R. 2649, to make amendments to the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, I would have voted "aye."

On rollcall vote No. 337, on H.R. 2744, Airline Flight Crew Technical Corrections Act, I would have voted "aye."

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PILGRIM VALLEY MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 21, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Pilgrim Valley Missionary Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas. The church, which was organized in 1908 in a three-room house by Reverend James Hardeman, has grown and become a candescent light in the community.

The congregation, which was originally located on Orr Street, has several times outgrown their buildings and therefore several moves have been required. The church is now located on South Riverside Drive. For years,